

# BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 9

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, OCTOBER 30, 1908

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

## LIFE SENTENCE

### Given Sprouse for Murder of Children

#### Report is Current That Sprouse Has Made a Confession to Commonwealth's Attorney.

The trial of John Sprouse, charged with the murder of the Cooper children and the burning of the residence occupied by the Cooper family begun in Grayson, to which place the defendants had obtained a change of venue began Monday of last week, the first day of the special term of the Carter Circuit Court called by Judge Hannah. It closed about five o'clock of Saturday afternoon, October 24, by the rendering of a verdict of guilty, with imprisonment for life in the penitentiary. Sprouse is now in jail at Lexington awaiting the final action of the Court. The jury was out about four hours. There was never, so far as can be learned, any doubt in the minds of the jurors of the guilt of Sprouse, the accused. The punishment for the atrocious crime, whether it should be death or life imprisonment was the only question. It is said that one man on the jury was the son of a man who once was one of a jury which tried and found a man guilty of murder and fixed his punishment at death. The condemned was executed, and sometime afterward it was ascertained that beyond doubt the accused was insane at the time he committed the deed for which the law took his life. As the evidence upon which Sprouse was convicted was almost all circumstantial this juror may have thought that if Sprouse was sent up for life he would have a chance if time should ever show him to be innocent.

The trial attracted a great deal of attention and created the most intense interest. All through the trial the court room was packed with people, all eager for every detail and incident of the tragedy which shocked the whole State. Judge J. B.

Hannah was on the bench. Commonwealth's Attorney John M. Waugh, assisted by H. C. Sullivan and M. S. Burns, of this place, conducted the prosecution, while W. D. O'Neil, also of Louisa, assisted by W. D. Perkins and Frank Prather, appeared for the defense.

Two speeches were made for the prosecution and the same number for the defense. Waugh and Sullivan spoke for the Commonwealth, and Prather and O'Neil appealed to the jury for their client. The attorneys for Sprouse did the best they could for so weak a case. All the ingenuity and eloquence expended in the case would not have upset the mere appearance of one witness, Mrs. Charles Cooper, when she took the stand to relate her heart rending experience. Her scared and stammering face, her form shaken with emotion, her broken recitals, produced a profound sensation and Judge, jury, bar and spectators were moved to tears as she told the story of the awful deed which so cruelly robbed her of her children.

It is not known what steps, if any, will be taken by the defense to save their client from a living death. A prominent lawyer from Ashland, not in the case, heard every word of the testimony, and he declares he never heard a stronger circumstantial case for the State.

Word reached here a day or two ago that Sprouse had made a confession. We have investigated the report fully and find that nothing definite can be learned at present. Sprouse sent for John M. Waugh on Sunday morning and is supposed to have made a confession, but Mr. Waugh refuses to disclose the details of the interview at present.

The Kelleys will be tried week after next.

## JOHN WILEY JONES

### Passes to the Reward That Awaits the Upright.

John W. Jones was born in the town of Prestonsburg in April 1833. He died in Louisa, Ky., about midnight of Monday October 26, 1908, aged seventy-five years and a few months. His funeral was held in the M. E. Church South on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 28 and at its close his mortal remains were carried to the Jones burial ground where so many of his kindred rest in their last sleep and were there interred. He is survived by six children and one sister, Mrs. Laura Mead, Mrs. Alma Fowler, Mrs. Mary Chapman, all of Mingo county, W. Va., Mrs. Amanda West, of Florida, Mrs. R. A. Stone, and Miss Adie Jones, and Mrs. Emily Medley, the surviving sister, of Catlettsburg. Of these all save Mrs. West were present at the last earthly scene.

Mr. Jones was married twice. His first wife was a sister of the late Judge John M. Rice. She died many years ago. His second marriage was with a daughter of the late Col. William Smith. Her death occurred only a few years since.

It is a sad duty to record the death of a man like John W. Jones, but it is an easy task to speak of him. There is no searching for words and phrases with which to say something, and that something not too little nor too much. Nearly his entire life was passed in Louisa, where his life was an open book and read of all men, and in all these many years there was no stain upon his record, no blot upon his stainless escutcheon. He was a member of the church through whose portals his body was gently borne, and to his laws and creed he was ever faithful and true. He was a Free and Accepted Mason, and his loyalty and devotion to his vows and obligations were notable and in the highest degree worthy of emulation. And when in the alternate cloud and sunshine of that October afternoon his brethren of the mystic tie dropped upon his coffin, from the "sprig of acacia," emblem of a fadeless immortality, they paid homage to one who never by word or deed brought reproach upon the Order which he so much loved.

John Jones was a good citizen. This when truthfully said, means much, and in all that good citizenship implies Mr. Jones stood high. He was sober, discreet and industrious and his honesty and personal integrity were of that rugged, unswerving, unfaltering type that made his honesty and integrity almost a proverb among his fellowmen. His industry knew no limit. Long after the pulmonary and other physical ills which finally took him from his family and friends had weakened his frame, Mr. Jones continued in useful employments, only leaving them when the burden of disease made him powerless to longer toil. Tenderly nursed and cared for by children and kin he drew his last breath in peace, knowing that the end was near; that death would end the pain of mortality, and that an unending life of bliss would be his beyond the sky.

## Consolidation of Banks.

The Third-Fifth National bank of Cincinnati has taken over the American National of this city, thus making it one of the largest and strongest banks in that city. Monte J. Goble, formerly of Catlettsburg, and who has numerous relations in Louisa, will be the cashier of the new concern. The Third-Fifth-American will have a capital of twenty million dollars.

## Altizer-Burchett Co.

The News is informed that this company has bought the stock of the Huntingdon Candy and Grocery Co. and has retained Mr. Wm. Remmele as its Big Sandy representative. These people are the largest confectioners in Southern and Central West Virginia and constitute a very reliable firm. The Mr. Burchett is Geler Burchett, a former Louisian, and a capable business man. The firm deserves success.

## W. J. BRYAN

### Was Heard at Huntington Thursday by Immense Crowd.

Wm. J. Bryan spoke at Huntington on Thursday of last week to the largest crowd that ever heard a public speech at that place. Quite a number of Kentucky people were present, including several from Louisa. Mr. Bryan's wonderful voice was in good condition and his speech created great enthusiasm.

In referring to the tariff he said in part:

"The republican convention adopted a tariff plank. My friends it was the 'awfullest' plank that you ever saw. Do you know how bad that plank was? I can explain in no better way than to tell you it was so bad that the editor of the Omaha Bee, the leading republican paper of the west mistook it for a part of one of my speeches. (Cheers). Can you imagine anything worse than that? (Cheers). I have been slandered a good deal in the last eighteen years but the worst thing that was ever said about me was said by that editor when he accused me of using the language that was in the republican tariff plank. (Cheers). And yet, I am glad that he made the mistake, for, while it was hard on me, it gave him the chance to tell the truth about that tariff plank. (Cheers). And when he thought he was lambasting the thing I said, he gave the most terrific indictment of the republican platform that I ever read."

There was more truth in that editorial than I had been in that paper before in twenty years.

And the part that he took up and annihilated was not the funniest part of the plank. The sentence before the sentence which he used was even worse. Do you know what that first sentence said? Why, I said that the republican party declares "unequivocally" for a revision of the tariff to be made immediately after inauguration, or to condense it, the republican party promised "unequivocally" to revise the tariff "immediately." Now that word "unequivocally" demoralizes any man's credit. Why did they put it in there? To distinguish between this new promise and the old one that had not been kept. The republican party promised unequivocally before now it promises "unequivocally." Why, it has had eleven years to do this. What is its hurry now? Why, these leaders are down on their knees. They say that if you will let them once more that they will do "immediately" what they should have done years ago. What is it they promise to do "immediately." Why, it is to revise the tariff. And does revision mean reduction. Not necessarily. You may revise it up or you may you may revise it down or sideways. Revision has height, depth, latitude and longitude, but it has no certainty.

We say reduction. We tell you where to commence and how to proceed, and they cannot meet our arguments. What do they do? They resort to threats, and from now until election day they will not attempt to persuade you. They will attempt to convince you. They will just try and scare you."

## Election Returns.

Nash & Herr have arranged to receive and give out the election returns on next Tuesday night. A stereopticon will be used and the dispatches will be shown promptly on a large canvass stretched on the opposite side of the street from the store. If the weather should be unfavorable the court house will be used. People from the country as well as those in town are invited to be present and enjoy these services.

## Shot at Glen Hayes.

A negro went on the warpath at Glen Hayes last Saturday night, and after a yell or two of "Warfield," he shot four times at William Maynard, with whom he had been quarreling. It is said that Maynard went toward the "colored person" with a knife, when the negro drew his gun and fired. Maynard is seriously wounded. Bocca.



## THREE SCORE YEARS

### Of Wedded Life is the Unusual Record of This Venerable Couple.

Those who have seen them require no introduction to the venerable couple who are strikingly pictured in this issue of the News. The couple thus shown are Mr. and Mrs. John Picklesimer, of Louisa.

Mr. Picklesimer was born May 13, 1828, and is therefore, an octogenarian, and there are not very many now living in this city who have reached this advanced age. He was born in a part of Floyd county, Ky., which has since been sliced off to assist in the formation of Johnson county. His aged helpmate was born in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, but she came to Kentucky very many years ago. Sixty years ago, the 21st of last September, being then 18 years of age, she was married to "Uncle John Pickle," then an active young man of 20. Her maiden name was Bayes. Many of her kin live in Johnson county, all respected, well-to-do people.

To this union were born nine children, five of whom are yet

living. These and theirs have surely obeyed the scriptural injunction to increase and multiply. This is proven by the existence of 22 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Picklesimer was a Union soldier, serving in the 14th Kentucky Infantry. For disabilities growing out of his service he receives a pension which helps him make the declining years of himself and wife more comfortable. Their comfort is well looked after, however, by their children, having for a long time made their home near Mr. and Mrs. James Picklesimer, of this place.

"Uncle John" must have inherited his marital propensities from his ancestry, for his grandfather fought with the old Colonial army in the Revolution. Uncle John has and shows with pardonable pride a razor which his grandfather used during those times which tried men's souls—and soles. He also has, what would be a great curiosity to many people of this day a pair of brass candle snuffers. The facilities and health of these old people are excellent. "Uncle John" can't hear quite so well as when he was younger but in a walking race to Busseyville, his old home, he would leave many a younger man behind. Mr. and Mrs. Picklesimer read the Big Sandy News which it opes they may do for many years to come.

## THE ROOSTER

### This Year Will be in the Second Column on Kentucky Ballots.

The attention of all Democrats is called to the fact that the Democratic column on the Kentucky ballots this year will occupy second place from the left side. For some time past the rooster headed the first column, but on account of the State having gone Republican last fall the log cabin will have first place. Democrats have been used to voting in the first column and it will be well for them to notice the change and call the attention of their brethren to the change.

## Kicked by a Horse.

Little Jesse Peters, aged six years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brock Peters, of Two Mile, was painfully hurt last Friday afternoon. Some one about the place had been using a young horse, and just as it was turned out near the barn it kicked the boy squarely on the right jaw. It was first thought the jaw had been broken, but the physician who was called found that fortunately the injury was not so bad. The cork on the horse's shoe had, however, cut a jagged hole through the cheek, making a very painful wound. The little fellow is doing well.

## State Capital Completed.

The construction of Kentucky's new Capitol building has been finished. Superintendent Flesher, who was placed in charge of the completion of the building when the Capitol commission took it out of the hands of the General Supply and Construction Company, withdrew the last laborer from the building and it stands complete with the exception of the heating and lighting fixtures, which will be supplied from the power plant now under construction separately.

## Large Sums Distributed.

Superintendent of Public Instruction J. C. Crabbe, will distribute among the teachers of Kentucky, this year nearly \$2,600,000, for he has concluded his first payments to the teachers, which is over \$460,000 and that sum is only one sixth of the amount that will be distributed. There are additional moneys to come from the dog tax, and other sources that will run the total figure up to the amount named.

The following is the amount distributed in the first payments to Boyd and adjoining counties: Boyd, \$2,574.65; Lawrence, \$4,405.54; Pike, \$7,329.33; Greenup, \$3,987.43; Carter, \$4,722.27; Elliott, \$2,354.24; Johnson, \$3,771.46.

## S. M. McClure Acquitted.

Word has been received from South Carolina to the effect that Stephen McClure was acquitted when tried for killing a child. The jury reached a decision within two minutes. Our readers will remember that we published the details of this affair some time ago. While acting as an officer a bullet fired at a fleeing criminal struck and killed a little girl.

Mr. McClure is in very poor health and has been advised to go to a more favorable climate. Tuberculosis is the trouble.

## Fire at Whitehouse.

At an early hour last Tuesday morning a fire occurred at Whitehouse which entirely consumed a couple of log residences, the property of the Whitehouse Coal Company. One house was occupied by Mrs. Welch and she lost nearly all her furniture and a large quantity of provisions. The other house was used as a residence by a man named Wilson. At one time it looked like the whole town would be burned, but by hard work the logs were confined to the property mentioned.

Invitations are out for a Halloween dance to be given in the large room in the second story of the Pierce building to-morrow night.

## Charges Death to Students.

Prof. A. E. Smith, brother of the missing man, principal of the public schools at Hindman, and himself an alumnus of State University, arrived in Lexington and in a statement over his own signature declared point blank that in his opinion, his brother was killed by a party of students who were attempting to haze him, and that they concealed the body. Prof. Smith also declared that there has been no real investigation of his brother's fate, and that the faculty of the university refused to make an investigation soon after his brother's disappearance. He points out that the investigating committee appointed by the faculty have bent their energies toward spreading the impression that the missing man had gone away of his own accord, instead of conducting a bona-fide search for his brother and that the grand jury's investigation was obviously incomplete and superficial.

## Negro Killed in Williamson.

Pierce Maynard, a policeman, shot and killed John White, colored, in Williamson Monday night. White was shooting at Maynard with two pistols, one in each hand, when Maynard shot him four times. Maynard was wounded by two bullets, but not seriously. White was instantly killed.

## An Appal.

To the voters in the 9th Congressional District, Ky:

Having accepted the nomination for Presidential elector on the Prohibition ticket for this district, I respectfully solicit your support in the approaching election. Yours for God and Home and Humanity, Louis, Ky. L. M. Conley.

## FIRST SHIPMENT.

### The Louisa Coal Company Makes Delivery Monday.

The Louisa Coal Company shipped out its first consignment of coal last Monday. The shipment consisted of five car loads and it was of superior quality. Everything is working admirably at the mines and in a very short time mining and shipping will be up to the full capacity of these valuable mines.

Today about 600 tons are mined every twenty-four hours. This and all the products of the proper yield a ready market. The coal is not excelled by any bituminous coal in the bowels of Mother Earth. The News will shortly have more to say of Torchlight and its plant.

## Halloween.

Tomorrow marks the ending of the most beautiful season on earth—the American October. The day following is November first, and, in accordance with a custom more honored in the breach than in its observance, the last hours of the last of October will be marked in many places by the scenes of mischievous mischief and wanton devilry. In the good old times it was the occasion for harmless pranks and innocent fun, but like the sending of evil wishes, it is too often the season and opportunity for doing things which the mischief makers are too cowardly to own.

In honor of Mr. J. W. Jones the public school was dismissed Wednesday afternoon, and under the supervision of their teachers the pupils attended the funeral in a body.